The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor; excepting to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE—
3 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1778 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1945 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 35, NO. 19

AFL PROPOSALS

Labor Hails United Nations Victory in Europe; AFL Demands 'Peace With Justice' at Parley

San Francisco.—The following recommendations for amending the Dumbarton Oaks proposals were adopted by the AFL Executive Council in Washington and presented to a meeting of the United States delegates at the international security conference here by AFL President William Green:

The membership of the American Federation of Labor firmly believes that the United Nations Conference, now being held in San Francisco, symbolizes the last hope of peace-loving humanity for generations to come for a peaceful world. Along with all of America's citizens we hope and pray for the success of the Conference. In this spirit, we respectfully suggest certain amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks plan on which the Conference must base the structure of a world security organization designed to prevent future wars. We believe that our proposed amendments are pointed in the direction of a world order based on international morality and justice; and we further believe that they are thoroughly consistent with the high ideals for which our nation has fought during this, the most costly war in human history.

The American Federation of Labor proposes that the Dumbarton Oaks proposals should be prefaced by a Declaration of the basic freedoms which are necessary and essential to human progress and welfare, to stability of government and to lasting peace within and between nations. These rights should include the following:

(1) Freedom of belief and worship. (2) Freedom of speech and of the Press. (3) Freedom of assembly. (4) Freedom of association. (5) Freedom from interference with personal privacy of person, home and property. (6) Freedom from involuntary servitude except as a punishment for crime. (7) Right of individuals to a fair public trial when accused of crime. (8) Right of individuals to speedy determination of criminal charges prior to detention.

We urge creation of a commission to formulate a United Nations Bill of Rights along the lines proposed herein as a preamble declaration to the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals.

We urge that Chapter I (Purposes) be amended so as to include in its entirety the following document known as the Atlantic Charter.

The Atlantic Charter

First. Their countries seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other;

Second. They desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;

Third. They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them;

Fourth. They will endeavor, with due respect for their existing obligations, to further the enjoyment by all States, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access, on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity;

Fifth. They desire to bring about the fullest collaboration between all nations in the economic field with the object of securing, for all, improved labor standards, economic advancement and social security;

Sixth. After the final destruction of the Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want;

Seventh. Such a peace should enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance;

Eighth. They believe that all of the nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons, must come to the abandonment of the use of force. Since no further peace can be maintained if land, sea or air armaments continue to be employed by nations which threaten, or may threaten, aggression outside of their frontiers, they believe, pending the establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security, that the disarmament of such nations is essential. They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measures which will lighten for peace-loving peoples the crushing burden of armaments.

Only by thus including this historic document can many countries of the world be assured that the purposes of the United Nations are consistent with the high ideals for which the soldiers of freedom have fought and died.

We propose that the following principles of justice which were formulated by the Pan-American Juridical Commission be included in Chapter II (Principles):

Standards of conduct take priority over the will of the individual state.

No difference exists between the moral law as applied to individual citizens and to states.

No state may claim to be exempt from the observance of the moral law on the ground of political expediency or because of the views of particular national culture which it believes to be inherently superior to that of other states.

Respect by each state for the personality, sovereignty and independence of every other state constitutes the basis of international order, just as in the relation of individuals mutual respect constitutes the basis of the democratic social order.

States are juridically equal, in the sense that they have the same fundamental rights. This equality derives from the existence of the state as a person of international law and not from the power which the individual state may possess to defend or maintain itself.

Juridically authority is independent of the territorial size of the particular state or of the degree of its material progress.

No state may be held bound by changes in the rules of law, whether political or economic matters, to which it has not freely consented.

Good faith, which is a fundamental principle of international law, should govern the relations of the states which form the new world in an essential condition of the peaceful cooperation of states. Treaty obligations, freely and voluntarily entered into must be faithfully observed.

While the United Nations must definitely contemplate the use of force, if necessary to keep the peace, the adoption of these principles of morality among nations would make it plain for all to see that the delegates at San Francisco had not lost faith in the power of right over might.

The American Federation of Labor urges that Chapter V (The General Assembly) be amended by insertion of a paragraph that would encourage member units to include in their representation persons from the functional groups of each nation representing labor, business and agriculture. We do not believe that the activities of the General Assembly should be limited to governmental representatives. While it is obvious that each sovereign State will control its own vote without allowing outside interference, we believe that it is vitally important to the future success of the United Nations that the work of the General Assembly should be kept close to the people as a whole through participation of national functional groups.

We recommend further that the General Assembly in establishing an Economic and Social Council to carry out its responsibilities in these fields, provide for labor, agriculture and business representation. We propose that the Economic and Social Council be composed of twelve persons representing government, four persons representing labor, four persons representing business and four persons representing agriculture. We recommend that the Economic and Social Council meet not less than four times a year and make its decisions by majority vote of these persons of which not more than two shall be from proper practical experience be considered as experts eligible for membership on the commissions to be set up by the Economic and Social Council.

We strongly urge in addition that the International Court of Justice be included definitely as an agent of the United Nations Organization. We feel that workers all over the world are concerned in this matter and are more than anxious that the record of constructive achievement made by the International Labor Organization be expanded and continued. Its constitution should be adapted to the framework of the new organization without eliminating its freedom of action and without minimizing its authority. When this is done we recommend that the Philadelphia Charter be substituted for the present preamble to the Constitution of the International Labor Organization.

In the firm belief that hemispheric solidarity on this side of the world is a necessary prerequisite to world peace the American Federation of Labor strongly urges that the Act of Chapultepec, unanimously adopted by the 20 American Republics in March of this year, be reaffirmed and accepted by the San Francisco Conference.

Green Presents AFL Proposals To United Nations Parley, Urging Ban on Slave Labor, Land Grabs

San Francisco.—AFL President William Green demanded that America lead the way to the formation of a world security organization designed to prevent future wars and to the establishment of a world order based upon "international morality and justice" with human rights recognized by all nations.

Appearing before the United States delegates to the United Nations Conference here after a hurried trip from Washington, Mr. Green presented the recommendations adopted by the AFL Executive Council as amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks proposals. The changes suggested by the AFL were:

1—That the United Nations adopt an international Bill of Rights, guaranteeing "the basic freedoms which are necessary and essential to human progress and welfare, to stability of government and to lasting peace within and between nations.

2—That these rights should include freedom of belief and worship; freedom of speech and of the press; freedom of assembly; freedom from interference with personal privacy of person, home and property; freedom from involuntary servitude except as a punishment for crime; right of individuals to a fair public trial when accused of crime, and right of individuals to speedy determination of criminal charges prior to detention.

3—That the principles of the Atlantic Charter be incorporated as a preamble to the forthcoming San Francisco pact. The Atlantic Charter pledged the signatory nations to abjure the use of force and to seek no territorial aggrandizement.

4—That the principles of national justice formulated by the Pan-American Juridical Commission be included among the principles to be proclaimed by the San Francisco Conference.

5—That the provisions regarding the General Assembly of the new world security organization be amended to provide that each nation accord representation to labor, industry and agricultural representatives, as well as government representatives.

6—That the Economic and Social Council to be set up by the General Assembly also include labor, business and farm representatives.

7—That the International Labor Organization be included definitely as an agent of the United Nations organization and that the Philadelphia Charter be substituted for the present preamble to the ILO constitution.

8—That the Act of Chapultepec, adopted by the twenty American republics in Mexico City last March be reaffirmed and accepted by the San Francisco Conference.

Copies of the AFL recommendations were circulated among the delegates from all nations after they had been submitted to the American delegation at a formal meeting.

The response to the AFL proposals was cordial and commendatory except among the delegates from Soviet Russia and the small group of nations who follow the Soviet line.

The latter groups objected to the AFL position opposing slave labor and upholding the Atlantic Charter. The pro-Soviet spokesmen made it clear they do not wish to be bound by such restrictions.

At the same time, President Green made public here a statement adopted by the Executive Council definitely refusing to ally itself with the so-called World Trade Union Congress, which had held a fruitless two-week meeting across the bay at Oakland.

The statement warned that those who sponsor the congress are seeking to destroy the International Federation of Trade Unions and undermine the International Labor Organization.

It charged that these sponsors are "pseudo-leaders of labor, who gave every possible aid and comfort" to the enemy before Hitler invaded Russia.

The statement continued:

"We have declined to identify ourselves with a world trade union movement that is based on a political philosophy which is designed to subordinate and subjugate man and property to the will of the State.

"We declined to become a party to a world trade union movement that would subordinate the American labor movement, as well as those of other lands, to the dictates of those who themselves are not free to determine their destiny. We have declined to associate ourselves with this alleged World Trade Union Congress because it is composed of an irreconcilable grouping of organizations, rival in character, raiding in action, and in conflict with each other on the political field and in hopeless disagreement on international lines.

"If evidence be required by some to demonstrate that the so-called World Trade Union Congress is a subterfuge designed to eliminate and subjugate American labor, as well as labor in other lands, to the dictatorial control of others, let them review the most recent effort made by the Soviet Government at the San Francisco conference of the United Nations sponsoring the World Trade Union Congress as the recognized world labor movement and in attempting to substitute it in place of the International Labor Organization created by the free governments of the world. This attempt sheds considerable light on the true role of this alleged World Trade Union Congress which would have American organized labor become part of an international labor organization sponsored and supported by another government.

"The American Federation of Labor is more firmly convinced than ever by recent developments that its position is sound. It calls upon the International Federation of Trade Unions, of which it is a member unit, to convene a world trade union conference of the International Federation of Trade Unions at the earliest possible time. This must be done if it is to carry out its duly constituted responsibilities on behalf of all representative trade unions, which as members of the International Federation of Trade Unions have proven their loyalty and devotion to free labor and free trade unions. We further urge that this meeting be convened either in Canada or in the United States and independent of any other labor gathering or meeting.

"We express the hope that the British Trades Union Congress and the free trade unions of other nations will maintain the close ties of brotherhood and understanding which have marked the relations between free organized labor of the world for so many years. Time and events will demonstrate the soundness of our decision not to barter away our status as a free and independent organization. The American Federation of Labor is American, free and voluntary. It will ever remain so."

AFL MACHINISTS WIN BENDIX ELECTIONS

Baltimore, Md.—The International Association of Machinists, AFL, won a run-off election to determine the collective bargaining agent for approximately 3,000 production employes of three Bendix radio plants here.

The AFL affiliate got 1,276 votes to 880 for the CIO, the National Labor Relations Board announced at the conclusion of the counting of ballots.

AFL AUXILIARIES CALL SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor will hold an Executive Committee meeting here on May 17 and 18, at the Hamilton Hotel. On account of the rapidly changing war activities, organizational demands, and postwar problems, officials felt it necessary to take immediate action on pending issues before the next convention.

Keep Buying War Bonds, Urges Green

Washington, D. C.—In a special V-E Day statement, released through the Treasury Department, AFL President William Green called upon all American workers to back up the Seventh War Loan Drive with increased bond purchases in order to speed victory over Japan. He said:

"American armed forces on the battlefronts and American soldiers of production cannot afford to pause or falter until the entire job is completed and final victory achieved. Nor can they afford to stop buying War Bonds.

"I call upon all members of the American Federation of Labor to hold fast to the War Bonds they already have bought and to increase purchases to the limit of their ability during the coming Seventh War Loan Drive so that we can cap victory in Europe with victory over Japan this year."

AFL RATIFIES CHARTER FOR L-M COOPERATION

Washington, D. C.—The AFL Executive Council unanimously approved the labor-management charter drafted by the officers of the AFL, the United States Chamber of Commerce and the CIO.

The charter seeks to promote industrial prosperity in the United States during the postwar period and to eliminate industrial strife. Under the terms of the charter, industry pledges to uphold the rights of labor and labor pledges to help protect the rights of free enterprise.

The National Association of Manufacturers has not yet subscribed to the charter but the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the CIO have ratified it.

AFL ASKS BRANCHES TO ASSIST JOBLESS

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green called on all State Federations and Central Labor Councils to help prevent the spread of unemployment hardships during reconversion.

He urged these local AFL agencies to set up Social Security Committees which would be required to assist displaced workers to obtain such benefits as existing, inadequate unemployment compensation laws provide. Mr. Green emphasized:

"Full employment after the war for all workers, including demobilized soldiers and men and women discharged from war jobs, is essential to real victory. Partial demobilization is upon us now. The time to act and to make sure that the promise of full employment is not swept out of our reach by a sudden wave of widespread joblessness is now."

The sudden, mass cancellation of war contracts will soon throw thousands out of work, Mr. Green added:

"It is the responsibility of organized labor to its members and to the nation to make sure that this imminent unemployment of a large number of workers and their dependents is met with effective safeguards against distress.

"If we had a unified national unemployment insurance program in effect, we would be better able to take care of the legitimate claims for this period of readjustment. We do not have such a program in effect, however, so it becomes